

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13026 200933Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 SS-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 SY-10 SCS-03 /083 W

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P 200847Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9287

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13026

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, RP (GERLOCK, EDWARD MARION)

SUBJ: ARREST OF FATHER GERLOCK

REF: STATE 228497

1. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS IN CASE HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY IN NATURE AND HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY AIMED AT IMPRESSING ON GOP OFFICIALDOM THAT ARREST OF AN AMERICAN MARY-KNOLLER IS BOUND TO BE WIDELY REPORTED IN US MEDIA. FIRST SUCH REPRESENTATION MADE NOV 2 TO COL. MELENDRES OF PC AND WAS REPORTED IN PARA 3 OF MANILA 12356. ON NOV 8, CONSUL GENERAL AND ANOTHER EMBOFF PAID ANOTHER CALL ON COL. MELENDRES TO INQUIRE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE AND TO INFORM HIM OF INQUIRIES ABOUT ARREST THAT EMBASSY WAS RECEIVING FROM U.S. THIRD REPRESENTATION MADE NOV 12 WHEN EMBOFF, ON LEARNING OF GERLOCK'S RELEASE FROM IMMIGRATION DETENTION STATION, PHONED COMMISSIONER REYES TO LEARN TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RELEASE. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF CALL TO NOTE CASE RECEIVING WIDESPREAD ATTENTION AND ASKED WHEN FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS COULD BE EXPECTED. REYES REPLIED BY SAYING HIS LAWYERS STILL STUDYING CASE WITH VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER CHARGES TO BE MADE. NEVERTHELESS HE HAD AGREED TO RELEASE GERLOCK FROM DETENTION INTO CUSTODY OF BISHOP REAGAN.

2. GERLOCK'S LAWYER TODAY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT REYES TOLD HIM THAT DECISION ON CHARGES MAY BE MADE THIS WEEK.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 13026 200933Z

LAWYER SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS AND NOTED THAT,

SINCE IMPOSITION MARTIAL LAW, PROMPTNESS IN FRAMING CHARGES EXCEPTION RATHER THAN RULE. HE STATED THAT, WHEN CHARGES MADE, CASE WOULD PROBABLY GO FIRST TO A BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY WHICH WOULD CONDUCT INFORMAL PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE WHETHER GERLOCK DEPORTABLE.

3. WE HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED ON FOR ASSISTANCE BY GERLOCK, OTHER LOCAL MARYKNOLLERS, OR GERLOCK'S ATTORNEY. EMBOFF TODAY TOLD LAWYER THAT EMBASSY STANDS READY ASSIST TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IF LAWYER BELIEVES GERLOCK BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OR OTHERWISE NOT RECEIVING EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAWS. LAWYER WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THIS AND PROMISED KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED DEVELOPMENTS.

4. GERLOCK REMAINS UNDER HOUSE ARREST AS OF NOV 20.
SULLIVAN

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